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Thursday, October 21, 2004

# The Almagest

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LSU SHREVEPORT

Volume 46, Issue 7

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## College Democrats welcome 'Change'

BY SABRINA NAUDIN

As the presidential elections get closer, people more than ever are taking a stand for what they believe in and making sure that their opinions are heard. Tuesday, Oct. 12, LSUS welcomed Diplomats for a Change, a group of former diplomats who travel the nation and give press conferences and discussion groups about the current political and economic issues that worry so many Americans.

The event was sponsored by the College Democrats. Kirk Green and Jay Thom, the president and vice-president respectively, were very happy about the turnout. The three speakers are all former diplomats who worked for the government and represented the

United States in different countries.

Ambassador Donald B. Easum spent 27 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. His postings were Nicaragua, Indonesia, Senegal, Gambia and many others. Currently a Senior Fellow at Yale University's Stimson Seminar in International Affairs, Easum has taught at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and has lectured widely in the United States and Africa on U.S.-African relations.

Michael Sterner, a United States diplomat for 25 years, retired from government service in October of 1981 and is now a partner of the IRC group, a Washington-based in-



SABRINA NAUDIN

Sterner (left), Wright, and Easum came to LSUS Oct. 12 to discuss the country's political and economic issues. The College Democrats sponsored the former diplomats' visit.

ternational consulting firm. Ambassador Sterner is a member of the Board of Governors of the Middle East Institute and a member of the Council on Foreign Affairs. He is the author of numerous articles on international affairs and the

Middle East in newspapers and professional journals.

Mary Ann Wright resigned from the U.S. Foreign Service in March of 2003, while serving as a Deputy

SEE DIPLOMATS PAGE 10

## American Humanics helps raise funds for United Way

BY CHAUNTE ROBINSON

The American Humanics Organization is hosting its annual United Way Campaign on campus.

Students, faculty and staff may join in the effort by making a donation to the United Way, a non-profit organization that focuses on health and human services causes.

Last year, American Humanics raised approximately \$4,600 for the United Way.

"Our goal this year is to raise \$2,500," said Amanda Gouthiere, event coordinator and American Humanics program coordinator.

Funds raised will be used to feed the hungry, teach children with disabilities and shelter battered women and children. For individuals who want to contribute to a specific non-profit organization in the



Gouthiere

local area may do so by completing a donor choice form in the American Humanics Office. The

donor choice form lists designated local organizations such as the Language Center, Northwest Louisiana Food Bank, The ARC of Caddo-Bossier, Providence House and YMCA of Shreveport/Bossier.

Stacy Martino, a graduate student seeking American Humanics Certification, said that volunteering for the United Way Campaign is a way to tell

SEE UNITED WAY PAGE 9

**Get involved!!**  
Turn to page 5  
for a list of  
campus student  
organizations  
currently  
recruiting  
members like  
**YOU.**



# The Almagest Staff

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Suzanne Bright, faculty adviser

### Corrections

In last week's issue, we ran a picture of some cast and crew members from "The First Breeze of Summer" on the front page. Some of the names in the cutline were incorrect. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

### Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials.

*The Almagest* is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times.

Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Candice Leone, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and email address.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the traffic situation that occurs in front of the entrance of LSU in Shreveport on Youree Drive. Everyday around noon, the traffic at the entrance of LSU in Shreveport is backed up and becomes a problem not only to the students attending school, but to motorists as well.

The safety of students should be a concern to the college as well as the city. The college needs to use its campus security officer and its new SUV to oversee the problem at this intersection.

This intersection can become dangerous as students are hurrying to class. By using the campus security, funding would not be a problem.

On the other hand, the city should take some kind of action to prevent any chance of accidents. The city could use a police officer to direct traffic during these busy times. Bossier City has a police officer directing traffic at Bossier Parish Community College on Airline Drive. This tactic seems to be working quite well for the college.

The traffic problem in front of LSU in Shreveport is a major issue. Hopefully with enough publicity, the problem can be corrected to make this intersection safer for everyone.

Nic Hunter  
Junior,  
Public Relations Major

## Girls & SPORTS



## *The Almagest* letters policy

*The Almagest* requests your reactions through letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your classification and major. Letters should be submitted to *the Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

*The Almagest* reserves the right to edit all letters.



## SAB finalizes plans for annual fall festival

BY CHRIS GRAY

Fall Fest is a traditional celebration at LSUS. This year Fall Fest will be held in the UC mall on Thursday Oct. 28 and Friday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In case of rain all events will be held inside the University Center. This event is free for everyone and T-shirts will be sold as well.

On Thursday, the SOC Fundraiser Fair will feature free food and inflatables such as the velcro wall, jousting, sumo wrestling and laser tag will be among the attractions as well. Music will be provided by disc jockeys on the UC sound system and a live remote from Clear Channel Communications. During Common Hour, there will be a Halloween costume contest, and the winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Best Buy.

At 7 p.m. a speaker will discuss classic horror genre films from the early days of "Psycho" to the modern film "Scream."

On Friday the SOC Fundraiser Fair continues along with most of the other attractions. There will also be a Movie on the Mall at 8 p.m. The film will be "Gothika,"

starring Halle Berry and Robert Downy Jr.

"Fall Fest has generally been at LSUS since the school first opened," said Gloria Raines, vice chancellor of student affairs. "There haven't been a lot of changes to Fall Fest over the years except for the decrease in student attendance."

She also said the activities haven't changed much. There have always been food booths, activities and live entertainment. Raines remembers when Fall Fest used to be packed—the mall was full, and the crowds were large stretching all the way back to Bronson Hall from the UC. LSUS used to have more afternoon classes and more people would attend Fall Fest between morning and afternoon classes. Now, there are not many afternoon classes offered, and most students go from school to work now and don't have time to go to Fall Fest or other campuswide activities, said Raines.

Raines said she thinks the main cause of Fall Fest student numbers' decreasing is the scheduling conflicts.

"If I had my wish I'd like to see a free period for a full hour every day of the week so students could participate more in

## Students observe culture, foreign business fundamentals during Fall Break trip to Mexico

BY JAMIE GILMORE

While most students stuck out the rain in Shreveport during Fall Break, some students traveled to Mexico—only to discover it was raining there, too.

Oct. 7-9, Dr. Wolfgang Hinck, assistant professor of marketing, and Dr. Tim Shaughnessy, assistant professor of economics, took eight students on a trip to Mexico for a chance to learn about the ways in which businesses operate in other countries and about the culture of the people in Mexico.

The group left early Thursday morning and drove to McAllen, Texas, to spend the night. On Friday morning they drove to Reynosa, Mexico, where they got the opportunity to visit two "maquiladoras," or U.S.-owned factories.

The first was the Jabil factory, where workers repair computer hard drives and work on other electronics. They also visited a Maytag plant, which manufactures washing machine parts.

"The business production facilities were state of the art," said Shaun Tobin, first year MBA student. "The technological advances employed by Mexican assembly plants rival those used by most United



COURTESY OF TIM SHAUGHNESSY

**Trip participants posed in front of a waterfall during a week-end trip to Mexico during Fall Break, Oct. 7-9.**

States Corporations."

Touring the plants gave students a sense of how multinational companies operate in other countries. They are not run by sweatshops, as many people may think; they even offer employee benefits.

They drove back to McAllen on Friday to visit the International Trade and Technology Building at the University of Texas Pan American, and tour "colonias," a community of low poverty in Texas. Shaughnessy said it gave students a glimpse at the bad living conditions some people still live in—even in America.

The trip also introduced students to Mexican culture. On Saturday they drove to Monterrey, where they were

scheduled to visit the waterfall Cola de Caballo but were not able to get to it because of the rain.

They were, however, able to walk to another smaller waterfall close by. They also visited Grutas de García, a cave system almost 60 million years old. The tour also took them through the Frail's Mountain.

"Most of the wimps took the cable car down the mountain. The more adventurous ones walked down the trail," said Shaughnessy. "I however, ran down the trail part of the way back up and then ran back down."

The trip was rainy, but the weather did not seem to distract the group from enjoying their fall break.

## WEEKLY WEATHER

Today:

Hi: 91

Lo: 70

Friday:

Partly Cloudy

Saturday:

Scat'd T'storms

Sunday:

Isol. T'storms

Monday:

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday:

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday:

Partly Cloudy



Hi: 87

Lo: 71

Hi: 81

Lo: 66

Hi: 80

Lo: 62

Hi: 78

Lo: 56

Hi: 78

Lo: 59

Hi: 76

Lo: 60

# the Almagest

wants your feedback

e-mail us at

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or call 797-5328



## KHS department expands activities program for spring

BY JILL CHILDERS

There will be a new expansion of physical activities on campus starting in the spring, including pickleball, disk golf, yoga, scuba, golf, badminton, tennis and swimming.

"A couple of things are happening next year," said Dr. Ron Byrd, a professor in the Kinesiology and Health Sciences department. "Students will be able to take these classes for grades in the fall. We are trying to get students active."

"Every one of these is unique and has something special about it. We're offering a whole lot more different kinds of courses this fall than we have in a long time. We're trying to get something for everybody; that's the ideal of offering like martial arts, golf and tennis."

Byrd has worked within the LSU system for 26 years. He spent 10 years at LSU Baton Rouge; he has been at LSUS 16 years.

Byrd received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Northwestern University in Natchitoches, and his Ph.D degree in Physiology at Florida State University. He was also a Fulbright scholar to Malaysia.

Byrd is a disk golf instructor.

"It is like frisbee golf—you play it with special disks, sort of like Frisbees," said Byrd. "You throw them instead of hitting them like golf. It's a really popular game."

Byrd said one of the best things about this activity program is that the people teaching the classes are good at the various activities.

Kyle Pierce, director of the Weight Lifting Development Center, is on the U.S.A. and In-

ternational Weight Lifting Federation.

"He's a fantastic teacher," said Byrd.

Dr. Cay Evans is a professor in the education department. She also teaches pickleball.

"Pickleball is a game that's played by the rules of tennis inside, on a racketball court, with special paddles and a ball. It's sweeping the country—it's popular all over the country. We're just now introducing it here. If students will get a shot at playing that, they'll love it, I guarantee," said Byrd.

Byrd said he wants LSUS students to be aware of the new activities for spring.

For more information, contact him at 798-4170.

*"Every one of these is unique and has something special about it ... We're trying to get something for everybody."*

—Ron Byrd

LSUS professor

## New Computer Information Systems degree may help LSUS graduates get better jobs

BY LORI RUSSELL

The Board of Regents has recently approved the bachelor's degree program in Computer Information Systems (CIS). The program received its final approval the first week of the semester, but they were not able to get any classes going because of the delay in approval. Faculty members are currently making plans for the new program to start in the spring.

CIS is the second undergraduate degree program under the traditional degree program of CSC. But the CSC program will not be disregarded. The CIS will help to refine the focus of the original program.

CSC is the foundational material that students need to get into graduate school; CIS will help the students find better jobs with a direct specification in their exact field of study.

"This degree program will attract many new students to the university," said Dr. William Vekovius, dean and professor of mathematics. "Jobs are now in the department of networking and dealing with the Internet. The CIS program

will help the students get better jobs."

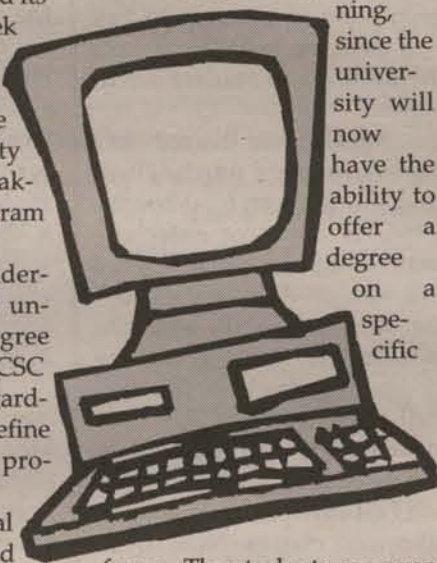
Paul Sisson, chair of math and computer science, said he is looking forward to getting the new program up and running,

since the university will now have the ability to offer a degree on a specific

they would need," said Sisson. "Now we have the ability to send some in one direction and others in another direction. That will make both the CIS and CSC program focus as strong as they can be."

"We want to keep the program very modern with all the latest developments in technology. Employers have a need for certain software programs that will enhance the performance of their company. They also need certain software to be developed. That is where all of it is tied in together. The future graduates will enhance their business because of their knowledge on the current programs," said Sisson.

Basically, companies have products that need to be sold. Many of the companies are now relying on the Internet for sales. The graduate must understand the networking the company needs. This new program is going to teach exactly that, said Sisson.



focus. The students can even start training as soon as they receive their bachelor's degree.

"In the past we have tried to give the students a good understanding of the CIS skills that

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of kids like me.

—Ana, age 16

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# LSUS Student Organizations

One of the biggest complaints heard around our campus is that we lack student involvement. Being a mostly "commuter school," we seem to miss out on the traditional college experiences that other schools have to offer. However, we have no one to blame for that but ourselves.

LSUS really does have opportunities for those who wish to get involved. We just have to take advantage of those opportunities. Following a student's suggestion to address this issue, the *Almagest* decided to run a special insert about student organizations at LSUS.

We recently attended a Student Organization Council meeting to talk with representatives of some of the organizations at our campus.

Unfortunately, all organizations were not properly represented at this

meeting as we had hoped.

Though we are unable to publish the complete list of clubs, we have listed all the organizations that were present and completed our fact sheet at the meeting. We also included some basic information about each group, as well as contact information for group leaders who can provide even more information for those that are interested.

There are also many groups that are trying to get established but haven't met all the requirements to become official yet. Be on the lookout for them as well.

There are many different types of organizations on this campus, but if you don't have an interest in the ones already established—form your own. Go by the Office of Student Activities for a complete list of campus rules and regulations.

## Ad Club - Provisional

### Activities:

find jobs and internships in advertising,  
participate in advertising competitions

### Meetings:

2nd and 4th Tuesday during Common Hour

### Requirements:

student in good academic standing

### Dues:

\$35 membership dues

### Adviser:

Mary Jarzabek

### President:

Chaunté Robinson  
525-1742

## American Humanics

### Activities:

volunteer fair, United Way Campaign

### Meetings:

2nd and 4th Tuesday in BH 121

### Adviser:

Dr. Norman Dolch

### President:

Joanna Morgan  
morganj5396@studentmail.lsus.edu  
742-3774

## American Marketing Association

### Activities:

Career Fashion Show and National Marketing  
Conference

### Meetings:

2nd Tuesday

### Dues:

\$5 club dues and \$40 national fee

### Adviser:

Dr. Karen James

### President:

Megan Crafts  
347-1953

## Association of Criminal Justice Students

### Meetings:

1st and 3rd Thursday during CommonHour  
in BH 301

### Dues:

\$10 per semester

### Adviser:

Sharon Green and Rich Arnold  
797-5379/797-5123

## Association of Future Lawyers

### Activities:

prepare for LSAT, find internships and learn school  
information

### Meetings:

1st and 3rd Tuesday during Common Hour  
in BE 219

### Dues:

\$10 per semester or \$15 per year

### Adviser:

Amy Wren

### President:

Alfred L. Barrow  
alfredlbarrow@hotmail.com  
746-1507



# LSUS Student Organizations

## Baptist Collegiate Ministry

**Activities:**

local ministries with nursing homes, fire stations  
and children's hospitals

**Meetings:**

Luncheons on Wednesday at noon and Metro  
on Thursday at 8:00 p.m. at the BCM Center

**President:**

Branson Boykin  
messiahs\_herald@yahoo.com

## Black Student Association

**Activities:**

Sickle Cell Anemia Can Shake, Bringing About  
Hygiene Awareness and canned food drives

**Meetings:**

1st and 3rd Tuesday during Common Hour  
in Red River/Desoto room

**Adviser:**

Lonnie McCray

**President:**

Terrance Neal  
tneal00@hotmail.com

## Bible Fellowship on Campus

**Activities:**

weekly Bible study

**Meetings:**

Thursday during Common Hour in the Pilot room

**Adviser:**

Dr. Donna Austin

**President:**

Omar Saravia  
344-8390  
osaravia@msn.com

## Biological and Health Sciences Club

**Activities:**

tours, speakers, seminars

**Meetings:**

Common Hour in SLA on 10/14, 10/21, 11/4,  
11/16 and 12/2

**Dues:**

\$20 per year

**Adviser:**

Dr. Beverly Burden, SC 115

**President:**

David Barnhill  
864-9973

## Chemistry Club

**Activities:**

BBQs, crawfish boils and trips

**Dues:**

\$5 per semester

**Adviser:**

Dr. Wayne Gustavson  
wgustavs@pilot.lsus.edu

## Chi Alpha

**Activities:**

weekly Bible studies and off-campus fellowships

**Meetings:**

Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Desoto room

**Adviser:**

Jennifer Rigdon

**President:**

Justin Reneau  
237-3086



# LSUS Student Organizations

## College Democrats

### Activities:

voter registration education and assisting with local elections

### Meetings:

Tuesday during Common Hour in BH 108

### Adviser:

Dr. W. Pederson

### President:

Kirk Green  
kcaptn24@aol.com

## Delta Sigma Theta

### Activities:

Sickle Cell Anemia Can Shake, voter registration drive and women's retreat

### Meetings:

2nd and 4th Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

### Adviser:

Leslie Scott

### President:

Delira Robbins  
795-9900

## Health and Physical Education Club

### Activities:

outreach to The Lighthouse

### Meetings:

notices posted

### Dues:

\$10 per year

### Adviser:

Dr. Jesse DeMello

### President:

Deborah Solomon  
773-7521

## International Club

### Activities:

work for Amnesty International and take trips

### Meetings:

3rd Tuesday in the Foreign Language Lab

### Adviser:

Dr. Lynn Walford

### President:

James Sandlin  
549-3118

## LSUS Campus Kappas

### Activities:

professional development meetings, donations and services for neglected and abused children

### Meetings:

once a month in BH 446

### Requirements:

education majors; sophomore, junior or senior standing; 2.5 GPA

### Adviser:

Wanda Moseley, BH 452  
798-4124

## Men's Soccer Club

### Practices:

Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 5:00 p.m.  
at the soccer fields behind the HPE building

### Requirements:

must attend all practices

### Adviser:

Tim Shaugnessy

### President:

Derek Sadler  
294-1574



# LSUS Student Organizations

## Phi Eta Sigma

### Activities:

community service, work with Gingerbread House and social activities

### Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month during Common Hour in the Desoto room.

### Requirements:

sophomores with GPA of 3.5 or above

### Dues:

\$30 induction fee and \$10 yearly fee

### Adviser:

Paula Lewis

### President:

Martha Durham  
Marthadurham@yahoo.com

## Phi Mu

### Activities:

Children's Miracle Network, formal, Halloween party, Founder's Day Dinner

### Meetings:

Sunday 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. in Caddo/Bossier room

### Requirements:

participate in formal recruitment or COB during first month of each semester

### Dues:

\$30 each month

### Adviser:

Chasidy Guthrie

### President:

Priscilla Turner  
prissyphimu@earthlink.net  
560-6656

## Society for Human Resource Management

### Activities:

educational sessions, joint meetings with professional chapter of SHRM

### Meetings:

2nd and 4th Thursday during Common Hour, BE 216

### Dues:

\$10 a year

### Adviser:

Dr. Sanjay Menon

### President:

Keri Bellefeuille  
keri4shrm@yahoo.com

## Student Government Association

### Meetings:

Thursday during Common Hour in the Webster room

### Adviser:

Dr. Gloria Raines, Adm. 208

### President:

Lacey Spencer  
sga@pilot.lsus.edu  
797-5342

## Weightlifting

### Activities:

participate in national, international and regional meets

### Meetings:

Monday-Thursday 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and  
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### Adviser:

Dr. Kyle Pierce

### President:

Joseph Maner  
jmaher@pilot.lsus.edu  
797-5083



## UNITED WAY

continued from page 1

them thanks and to support the community.

"It's all about helping the United Way because they help us," said Martino.

American Humanics has hosted the United Way Campaign at LSUS since 1995.

Joanna Morgan, a graduate student seeking American Humanics Certification, said this campaign is very important because the United Way of Northwest

Louisiana supports several different organizations in the community.

Without their help, many of the organizations would not survive.

American Humanics prepares students for careers in human resources.

The program's curriculum gives individuals hands-on experience with fundraising, fiscal management, public relations and marketing, non-profit administration and volunteer management, just to name a few.

Through the American Humanics Program, Morgan said she had the opportunity to experience first-hand how organizations benefit from the United Way.

"I have gained the ability to help other people," said Morgan. Morgan has worked with the Lions Camp, an organization that serves the needs of

handicapped children.

She has also volunteered for other non-profit organizations such as Renzi Art and Education Center and the American Diabetes Association, and she spent time volunteering at Christ the King Catholic Church.

A few of the American Humanics partner organizations include Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boy and Girl Scout Clubs, Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement and the United Way.

Individuals who would like more information about volunteering or making a donation may contact the United Way Northwest Louisiana at 402 Edwards Street, Shreveport, La., 71101. Or, call the center at (318) 222-8544.

The deadline for making contributions is Oct. 31.

Donations may be submitted to Michelle Davis in Accounting Services or to the American Humanics Office in Bronson Hall, Room 107.

Contributors have the option of donating by payroll deduction, cash, check or credit card. Individuals also have the option to donate one hour's pay per month, one percent of gross pay for salaried workers, or a one-time direct payment.

For students who are interested in becoming a member of American Humanics, contact Gouthiere at (318)-797-4262, or at [agouthie@pilot.lsus.edu](mailto:agouthie@pilot.lsus.edu).

*"It's all about helping the United Way, because they help us."*

*-Stacy Martino*

*Graduate student*

# Idaho alumni fills director slot in Office of Student Activities

BY SHANDRIKA JACKSON

The position of director of student activities and University Center has finally been filled, after over a year and half of being vacant. The vacancy in this position made it hard for the University to handle and organize student activities programs. Many of the duties of the director position fell upon other student activities employees, who had to take away from their job duties.

Joseph Pearson from Idaho accepted the position of new director of student activities and University Center at LSUS.

Pearson received his undergraduate degree from Boise State University in political science and a master's degree in public administration from Idaho State University. He began his career as campaign manager for an Idaho congressman after graduation.

"It was a real adventure moving from the moderately cool, dry North to the humid, hot South. Besides the weather the overall move has been very pleasant," said Pearson.

He was the director of new student orientation and advisor programming at Idaho State University. Pearson worked with incoming freshmen, transfer students and the general student body to create well diversified student activities.

"I am a builder, and I love to work with students," said Pearson. "Helping students achieve their goals and become leaders is most important to me."

Jennifer Klimiuk, rec sports coordinator said that having a new director of student activities will help LSUS achieve more of their student involvement goals.

"We're excited to have (Pearson) here at LSUS," said

*"We're excited to have him here at LSUS ... He has a lot of new and diverse ideas to make this a great year."*

*-Jennifer Klimiuk*

*Rec Sports Coordinator*

Klimiuk. "He has a lot of new and diverse ideas to make this a great year."

Pearson would like to get adjusted and observe the way things are done before he changes anything or implements any new programs or activities. Eventually, he would like to begin new programs such as Core Curriculum Transcript and Leadership Institute for Students.

A Core Curriculum Transcript is a type of activities transcript that details some of the skills the students achieved while participating or volunteering in various on-and off-campus activities. This type of transcript can be used for students entering graduate school, law school or the workforce to show their range outside of their academics.

The Leadership Institute for Students would allow LSUS to learn crucial leadership skills that will be needed in the real world. These programs could better serve the students at LSUS students by providing them written and approved programs that could be used on their job résumés.

"LSUS has unlimited potential for growth and advancement," said Pearson. "Hopefully, through the introduction of new activities and programs we can make LSUS a better place to not only to attend class, but to receive the full college experience."

Student workers also seem happy about Pearson's arrival.

"I am really thrilled about (Pearson) because we have been without (a director) for so long," said Chenique Wilson, a student worker in the student activities office. "So far he's doing a great job by being very open to new ideas of others."

## Have a story idea?

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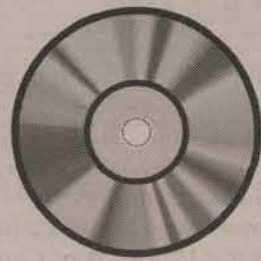
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# Music Reviews

BY ERIC PULSIFER

## Jimmy Eat World— "Futures"

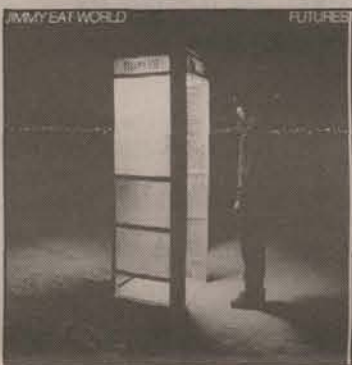
It would be easy to hate Jimmy Eat World. They write songs filled to the brim with pronouns, "baby"s, "whoa"s and "oh"s, and though it may not be their intent, it seems their target audience is high school kids who think every little problem in the day is of life-shaking importance.

But it's also hard to hate Jimmy Eat World. Yes, they are nauseatingly popular, and you probably won't be able to go 15 minutes this fall without seeing them on television or hearing their songs on the radio, but they're so likable that it's easy to understand why the kids love 'em so much.

Slightly less pop-oriented than their last album and more

similar to their 1999 sophomore release "Clarity," "Futures" is a tiny step in the right direction for Jimmy Eat World, but their sound has changed so little since their inception in the mid 90s that it has begun to wear out its welcome.

Their catchy new album has the typical mix of semi-angry rock and pop ballads that insure the album a place on the pop charts for months to come.



★★★★☆



## Elliott Smith— "From a Basement on the Hill"

I was listening to a free copy of "The Royal Tenenbaums" soundtrack a few years back and after some Clash and Ramones' songs I came to a song called "Needle in the Hay."

Upon hearing it, I incorrectly assumed that this must have been written by some '60s

folk singer. It sounded like something the Beatles could have written.

My judgments on its age were perpetuated by the fact that the audio quality was lower than that of an old cassette, and the entire song was composed of a guy singing and softly playing guitar.

It sounded like it had been recorded in one take with its minor flaws and his voice's trembling left present in the recording as a way of illustrating its frailty.

After repeat listens I looked into it to discover it was a song from 1995 by Elliott Smith. This is one of the most endearing qualities of Smith's song writing—his songs genuinely feel timeless.

There are no hints of over-production to cover Smith's sorrowful vocals, even when he trips up.

His humanity is always obvious. He seems a man tortured by an ultra-awareness of his own faults and weaknesses.

Smith was found dead almost a year ago today with two knife wounds to the chest and his posthumous final album was finished up by his family and friends.

In one of the album's strongest tracks, "Fond Farewell," Smith shows his aptitude as a songwriter:

*"I see you're leaving me and taking up with the enemy, The cold comfort of the in between, A little less than a human being, A little less than a happy high, A little less than a suicide, The only things that you really tried."*

While his untimely death is still under investigation, one thing is certain—Smith was an incredible songwriter whose legacy will live on well into the future.

★★★★★

## DIPLOMATS

continued from page 1

Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia, in opposition to the Bush administration's decision to go to war in Iraq and the lack of effort in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

Wright was on the first State Department team to go to Kabul, Afghanistan, in order to help reopen the U.S. Embassy, in December of 2001 and worked there for five months, serving in the last month as Deputy Chief of Mission (Deputy Ambassador). She also served in the Army for 26 years.

"We are not a Kerry group—we are for change," said Wright. "We want our ideas to be heard because of our long experience working for the United States Government."

They all gave a short intro-

duction and answered audience members' questions, varying from how they felt about the Bush administration

**"We are not a Kerry group—we are for change. We want our ideas to be heard ..."**

**-Mary Ann Wright**  
*Diplomats for a Change*

and what needed to be changed about it, to the current situation in Iraq.

The speakers made points about what approaches and measures need to be taken, re-

gardless of who becomes president. Sterner said the upcoming election is going to be the most important one of his life, and people need to get educated and vote.

The three former diplomats explained why they felt that the Bush administration is headed in a dangerous direction—particularly with the way it is handling the situation in the Middle East—and therefore, cultivating hate toward America.

Wright said she was trying to send a message to President Bush when she resigned from her position.

"I resigned from my career that I dearly loved, representing America," said Wright. "That was a pretty public statement to the president saying, 'I don't think that your policies are good on this, and I think that they need to change so much that I will give up my career over it.'"

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# Jason's Flick Picks

BY JASON LIMERICK

## "Friday Night Lights"

Expecting a few good hits and a "Varsity Blues"-style celebration of high school football, I left my expectations at the house. Instead, I was greeted with surprisingly innovative cinematography and camera work, real dramatic presence and a heartfelt realistic portrayal of pain and triumph.

From the first scene, you can see something different going on here. Director Peter Berg approaches the material much less like a teen drama and more like a documentary. He uses shaky camera work and long, flowing shots to give the feeling that you're sneaking a peek at this hidden place. It has a stunning effect. The movie feels so much more genuine than

any other football movie I've seen and draws you in with the guilty glee of an unchecked observer.

The acting is also second to none. There isn't a single weak performance. Billy Bob Thornton pulls off the nervous-but-determined coach with the weight of an entire Texas town on his shoulders. He really pulls you in.

The young cast of actors is also surprising. Lucas Black is amazing and a kid to watch. He has a southern drawl that drips with realism. And wouldn't ya' know, Tim McGraw was jaw-dropping. Who knew he could act so well? I was seriously impressed.

The dramatic work in this film is top-notch. The arcs of each character and their evolution through the film is as expertly done as any ensembled

independent.

The flaw of the movie is the game scenes. They're pretty good, but Berg misses the punch on a lot of key scenes. He doesn't make you feel the hits.

Overall, this is one of the best sports films I've ever seen. I played high school football in a place where it's as serious as a heart attack, and the whole town teetered on each game. This movie brought back a lot of repressed anxiety. I recommend it to anyone who loves a good sports movie.

★★★★☆

## "Team America: World Police"

I'm a huge fan of "South Park" creators Trey Parker and

Matt Stone because I think they are two of the smartest men in entertainment. A lot of people discount the show as a bunch of silly jokes, but if you really watch it you'll learn something.

These guys are the greatest force for socio-political satire of our generation. They tackle everything from abortion rights to gay marriage with a humorously profound eye on the world that speaks to a level of common sense that is lost in a world of people who take themselves too seriously. And they're refreshingly independent. They are non-partisan troublemakers who take jabs at both sides of the political fence.

So having sung their praises, you can see that I was really looking forward to "Team America."

A few warnings: if you are squeamish of puppet blood, or

if you don't want to see puppets having sex or if you are scared of naughty words—don't see this movie.

Stone and Parker decided to use puppets this time. This is an almost untampered realization of a creative vision—and it kind of restores my faith in film.

The movie goes after everyone—liberals and conservatives, dictators and terrorists, and actors and pundits are all fair game. The entire movie is a satire of big-budget-action flicks. There's even a song about how much the movie "Pearl Harbor" sucked. God Bless America.

The movie is rough and raw and funny. Overall, I think mature people can appreciate this lampoon of the self-righteous. I loved it.

★★★★☆

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# Calendar of Events

## Thursday, October 21

SGA Meeting  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
SOAR Leader Recruitment  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

## Friday, October 22

Ultimate Family Day  
6 p.m.



## Saturday, October 23

Association of  
Future  
Lawyers  
Meeting  
10:00 a.m. -  
3:00 p.m.  
Rick  
Schenkman's  
Election 2004  
7:00 p.m.

## Sunday, October 24

Phi Mu Meeting  
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Kappa Sigma Meeting  
5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Zeta Tau Alpha General Meeting  
5:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.  
Sigma Nu Meeting  
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Omega Phi Psi Meeting  
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, October 26

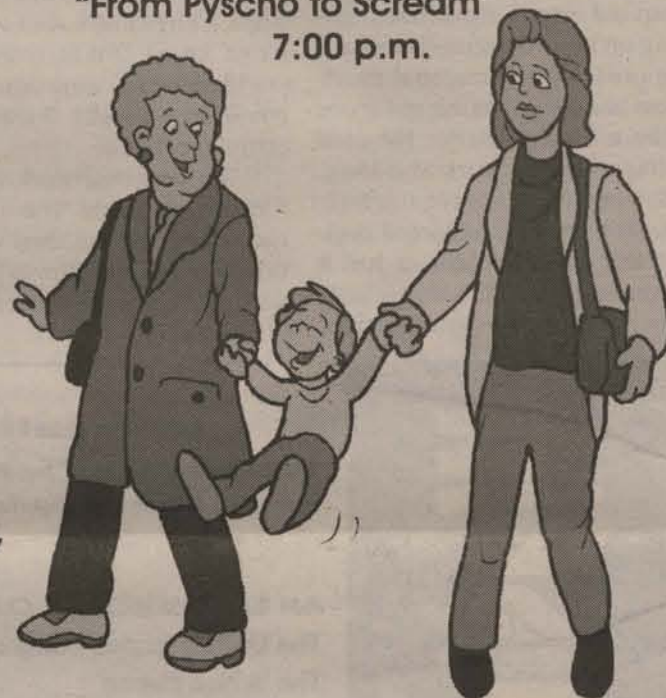
Mock Presidential Election  
8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
SOAR Leader Recruitment  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 p.m.  
Not So Common Hour  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
Chi Alpha Club Meeting  
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, October 27

Kiwanis Luncheon  
12:00 p.m.

## Thursday, October 28

Fall Fest  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
SGA Meeting  
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
SOAR Leader Recruitment  
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Delta Sigma Theta  
Chapter Meeting  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
"From Psycho to Scream"  
7:00 p.m.



# \*\*HOROSCOPES\*\*

\*Editor's note: For entertainment only. Not to be taken seriously!



**Aries** (March 21-April 19)

You are headed down the path to success. Don't let any obstacles stand in your way today. Persevere and you'll finish strong.



**Taurus** (April 20-May 20)

Get organized today. Don't be hesitant to let others help you get things in order. It will simplify your life.



**Gemini** (May 21-June 21)  
Take charge

of your life today. Trust your instincts instead of relying on the advice of others. You know what's best for you.



**Cancer**

(June 22-July 22)  
You have something serious on your mind that you want to talk about. Be careful who you trust with this information.



**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22)

Think about all the possible consequences of your actions. It could save you from a lot of potential problems today. Consider the feelings of others when making decisions. You are not the only one that

will be affected.



**Virgo**

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Get some work done on that project you've been putting off. Finishing it now will really free up your weekend.



**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are very opinionated today. Be careful who you give advice to. It might not be received well by everyone.



**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Listen to some constructive

criticism that will come your way today. Sometimes the truth hurts, but your loved ones want what's best for you. Look at a situation from an outsider's perspective.



**Sagittarius**

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
A conflict with a friend will occur today. Don't be stubborn. Try to reach a compromise that will satisfy both of you. Remember, everyone is not out to get you.



**Capricorn**

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Your schedule is packed full of important things to do today. This will be a very pro-

ductive day for you if you keep yourself from procrastinating. Stay focused; you can play later.



**Aquarius**

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Don't procrastinate. Laziness will only create more work for you later. The more you get done today, the more fun you can have later.



**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20)

Everyone is willing to lend you a helping hand today. Be thankful for all the assistance, and remember it in the future when someone needs your help. Return the favor.